

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **February Brings a Month-long Celebration of African American Authors**

**GLENDALÉ, Ariz.** – The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of African American Authors is gearing up for six exciting free events during the month of February. Glendale Public Library and Scottsdale Public Library are co-sponsoring this salute to black authors.

Originally organized as a single daylong event, the planners decided to stretch out the observance, incorporating even more notable writers. The free programs will take place at Glendale's Main Library and the Scottsdale Civic Center Library.

"My goal is for people to recognize the contributions of contemporary African-American authors," said Cyndee Landrum, reference librarian at Glendale Main Library, "and to spark their curiosity about diverse literature and experiences."

Landrum has been instrumental in the success in the Celebration of African American Authors since it began.

Scheduled events include:

- Saturday, February 3, 1 p.m. Glendale Main Library Auditorium, 5959 W. Brown St., Glendale. Author Appearance: Lisa Teasley. A novelist and a "New York Times" contributor, Lisa Teasley will talk about her titles "Glow in the Dark," "Dive" and her newest release, "Heat Signature." She is a graduate of UCLA and a native of Los Angeles, where she currently lives. Her critically-acclaimed debut, "Glow in the Dark," was winner of the 2002 Gold Pen Award for Best Short Story Collection and the 2002 Pacificus Literary Foundation Best Short Story Writer award for fiction. She is a regular contributor to "Essence" magazine and "The Los Angeles Times." Teasley is the writer and host of the BBC documentary, "High School Prom."

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 Main Library  
 5959 W. Brown St.  
 Glendale, AZ 85302  
 623-930-3530  
[www.glendaleaz.com/library](http://www.glendaleaz.com/library)**

- Saturday, February 10, 1 p.m. Glendale Main Library Auditorium, 5959 W. Brown St., Glendale. Author Appearance: Jewell Parker Rhodes. The Valley's own Jewell Parker Rhodes, Director of the Virginia Piper Center for Creative Writing, is a distinguished fiction and non-fiction writer. She will be discussing her new work, "Porch Stories, a Grandmother's Guide to Happiness." "Porch Stories" is Rhodes's tribute to her beloved grandmother, a real account of the love she received and the lessons she learned. Rhodes is a prolific writer and her work has been nominated twice for the prestigious Pushcart Prize. Among her numerous awards are the Yaddo Creative Writing Fellowship, the National Endowment of the Arts Award in Fiction, and two Distinguished Teaching Awards. Her fiction works include "Magic City," "Voodoo Dreams," "Douglass' Women," and "Voodoo Dreams." Two non-fiction titles related to the craft of writing are "Free Within Ourselves" and "The African Americans Guide to Writing and Publishing Nonfiction."
- Saturday, February 17, 2 p.m. Civic Center Library, 3839 N. Drinkwater Blvd., Scottsdale. Author Appearance: Reginald Daniel. Award-winning technology entrepreneur Reginald Daniel will share his secrets to success that allowed him to retire at age 44. The secrets are outlined in his debut work, "Living Your Life Backward, a Guide to Balancing Career, Money and Family." A former communications analyst with the U.S. Air Force and a top-earning salesman with Silicon Graphics, Daniel founded Scientific and Engineering Solutions (SES) in his basement in 1996 with three employees. Five years later, the number of employees had grown to 100. In recognition of his achievements in business and community service, Daniel was honored as the national Black Chamber of Commerce as its 2001 Entrepreneur of the Year. A year later, he was selected as the Maryland state winner Ernst & Young's Information Technology Consulting Entrepreneur.
- Tuesday, February 20, 7 p.m. Glendale Main Library, 5959 W. Brown St., Glendale. Kitabu Book Discussion Group: "No Place Like Home" by Gary Younge. The author will not be present for a discussion of his book. Younge, a London Guardian correspondent contrasts the racial atmosphere of the U.S. to that of his native Britain as he travels throughout the American South. His travel journal serves as part travelogue, social commentary and history chronicle. The monthly Kitabu Book Discussion Group meets in the large meeting room and is dedicated to reading and reviewing literature by and/or about people of African descent.
- Saturday, February 24, 1 p.m. Glendale Main Library in Perfetto de café, 5959 W. Brown St., Glendale. Poet Appearance: Frank X. Walker. Multidisciplinary artist, Frank X. Walker, is a Lannan Literary Fellow and co-founder of the Affrilachian poets. He will present an

afternoon of poetry in the library's coffee café. His work infuses the unique experiences of both the African American and Appalachian cultures. Walker is the author of three poetry collections: "Black Box," "Buffalo Dance: the Journey of York," which won the Lillian Smith Book Award in 2004; and "Affrilachia." He serves as a Visiting Professor of Writing, Rhetoric and Communication at Transylvania University and is the publisher of "PLUCK! Journal of Affrilachian Art & Culture," due out in spring 2007.

- Sunday, February 25, 2 p.m. Civic Center Library, 3839 N. Drinkwater Blvd., Scottsdale. Young Adult/Teen Poetry Slam with BlackPoet Ventures. BlackPoet Ventures will host the CC Poetry Slam for teens and parents. Valley slam poets, come out to this event to support and encourage our youth. Look for a hands-on approach to the art and soul of performance poetry. Participants, bring your originals to practice and compete. "Rap it, slam it, poet it up" is the mantra of BlackPoet Ventures. Registration is a must for anyone who wants to participate. To sign up, call 480-312-READ.

This project is supported by the Arizona Commission on the Arts, with funding from the State of Arizona and the National Endowment on the Arts; Scottsdale Public Library; the City of Scottsdale Office of Diversity and Dialogue; Glendale Public Library; and the City of Glendale Diversity Committee.

For information about the programs at the Glendale Main Library, call 623-930-3553. To learn more about events at the Scottsdale Civic Center Library, call 480-312-2040.

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